



The Official Newsletter of the
**Sun Cities Area
 Historical Society**

Fall 2014 | Volume 23 | Number 2



**Salute to Sun City's
 First Retirement Center**

Sun Valley Lodge to turn 50 in 2015

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Inside our fall newsletter ...

Fall Membership Meeting



Arizona Highways Publisher Win Holden traces '90 Years of the Arizona Highways' Magazine at fall meeting.
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Performing Arts Celebrated
 The Museum's long-awaited "Salute to the Performing Arts" interactive exhibit set to open this fall.

Page 3

Volunteer Appreciation



Del Webb Sun Cities Museum grateful for work of its volunteers.

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Del Webb Sun Cities Museum slates fall meeting Nov. 12 at Heritage Tradition

A close-up view of *Arizona Highways Magazine* -- one of Arizona's most popular and most treasured resources -- will be provided by the magazine's publisher at the annual meeting of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

Win Holden, publisher of the renowned publication and a Valley resident since 1980, will be the guest speaker at this year's meeting.

The meeting takes place 1 p.m. Nov. 12 at Sun City West's Heritage Tradition, 19303 New Tradition Road.

The meeting also includes a brief update of museum activities and election of the 2015 Board of Trustees. All museum members are encouraged to attend, and the meeting is open to the general public.

Admission is free. Call (623) 974-2568 for information. Light refreshments will be available.

Mr. Holden will present a talk entitled, "On the Road for 90 Years: The Remarkable History of *Arizona Highways Magazine*."

Mr. Holden joined the magazine as its sixth publisher on May 4, 2000. He has held positions as general manager of the publishing division of MAC America Communications, Inc.; publisher and editor-in-chief of *PHOENIX Magazine*; and executive vice president and general manager of Phillips-Ramsey Advertising & Public Relations.

Mr. Holden was the 2007 inductee into the Arizona Tourism Hall of Fame and is active in many charitable and community organizations. He is co-chair of the board for Ari-

Win Holden, publisher of *Arizona Highways Magazine*, will be the guest speaker at the fall meeting of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. The meeting takes place 1 p.m. Nov. 12 at Heritage Tradition, 19303 New Tradition Road, Sun City West.



zona 2016 – the group hosting and staging the 2016 College Football National Championship Game.

He served as chairman of the Fiesta Bowl and Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce Boards of Directors and chaired the Phoenix Pride Commission.

Mr. Holden is Past-President of the Endowment Board of the ASU Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications, is immediate Past-President of the Executive Council of King of Glory Lutheran Church in Tempe and chaired the Phoenix Citizen's Transit Commission.

He serves as chairman of the Board for the Greater Phoenix Convention and Visitor's Bureau as well as the Arizona Tourism Alliance Boards of Directors and is president of the International Regional Magazine Association Board of Directors. He serves as

chair of the Arizona Centennial Commission and is President of the Centennial Foundation Boards of Directors.

He was named a Most Admired CEO by the *Business Journal* in 2012.

As *Arizona Highways*' publisher, Mr. Holden leads the organization in its diverse activities centered on the world-renowned magazine including book publishing, licensing, e-commerce, product development, catalog marketing and retailing.

Arizona Highways is recognized as one of the finest travel magazines in the world, has approximately 130,000 subscribers in every state and in 120 countries. *Arizona Highways* has been named Magazine of the Year over 12 times by the International Regional Magazine Association.

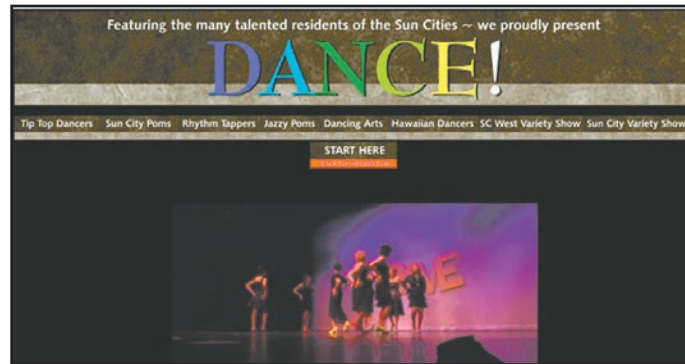
Dance groups to perform at museum

By Edson Allen

Visitors to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum will soon be able to choose from more than 50 performances of six dance clubs and two variety shows with the touch of a finger.

These organizations have selected acts that they feel were among their best over the years and are included in the museum's newest exhibit. Dan Seabreeze of Seabreeze Design has combined them into a new, interactive display for the museum.

By simply touching the screen where it says "START HERE," you'll see an introduction to the importance dance has played in the lives of Sun City and Sun City West residents for the past 50 years.



A soon-to-open exhibit saluting the performing arts in the Sun Cities will feature the museum's first-ever interactive display that allows visitors to select the dance group and performance of their choice.

After watching the brief intro, you can choose from one of the eight groups:

- Tip Top Dancers
- Sun City Poms
- Rhythm Tappers
- Jazzy Poms
- Dancing Arts
- Hawaiian Dancers
- Sun City Variety Show
- Sun City West Variety Show

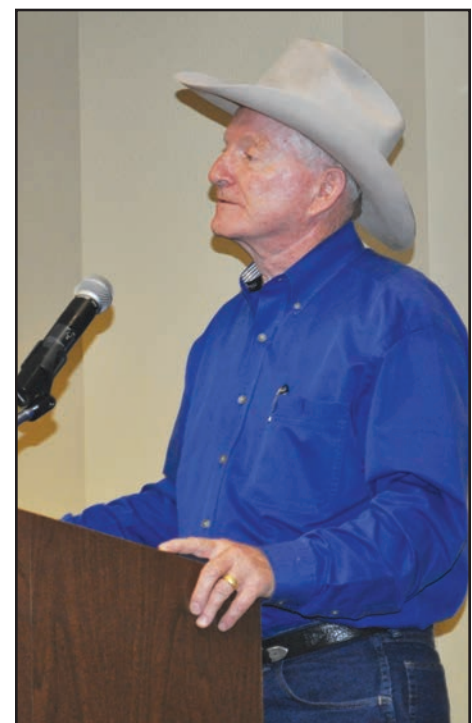
Each of the groups has picked favorite routines, which you can choose next. And it's all done with a tap of the finger on a wall-mounted, touchscreen monitor. You'll find it simple to use and fun to watch!

The opening date hasn't been set, as other exhibits need to be moved before this can be installed. You'll receive an announcement as the opening date nears.

Alook back at our spring meeting

The museum held its spring meeting at the Heritage Tradition in Sun City West. Marshall Trimble, the official Arizona State Historian, was the guest speaker and entertained the crowd with stories related to the state's history. During the meeting, Constance McMillin was honored as the latest member of the Legacy Circle (those who donate \$10,000 or more to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society). Trustee Edson Allen presented the honor to Ms. McMillin.

*(Photo by Bret McKeand/
Independent Newspapers)*





An official publication of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society © 2014 SCAHS 10801 Oakmont Drive Sun City, AZ 85351 (623) 974-2568 email: scahsm@gmail.com www.delwebbsuncities-museum.org

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is certified by the Arizona Historical Society



The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the records and artifacts for Sun City, Arizona, (the world's first Active Adult Retirement Community), and its sister city, Sun City West. The Society's headquarters are located in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, in one of the five original Sun City model homes.

Museum Hours: 1-4 p.m. Monday/Wednesday/Friday Groups (6 or more) by appointment Office Manager: Julie Glass

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Bret McKeand Vice President

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Edson Allen Hal Lind Gail Warmath Paul Hermann Carolyn Dearen

Newsletter Editor:

Bret McKeand

Contributors:

Edson Allen, Priscilla Fenner, Barbara Brozman Composition courtesy of the Independent Newspapers

Message from the President

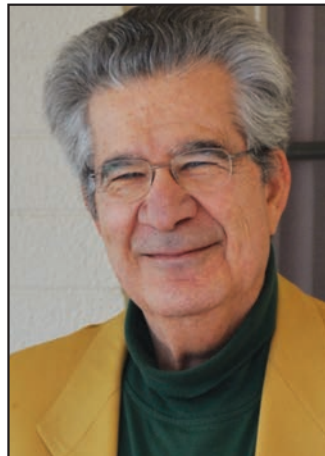
Del Webb Museum prepares to welcome new 2015 board

As we approach the end of the year, there will be board changes recommended at our Nov. 12, 2014 members meeting.

Departing after two three-year terms are myself, Ed Allen and Bret McKeand.

At our last board meeting, the board voted to allow Bret an additional year and selected him to be president in 2015.

Additionally, two former board members -- Pris Fenner and Bill Pearson -- were selected



Ed Cirillo 2014 President Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

to return next year. You will have an excellent board next year.

The first of our Performing Arts Exhibits

will go up prior to the end of the year, which will be dance programs. Two more exhibits are planned for the future, music and stage performances.

Included in the newsletter is your 2015 membership renewal. Your support is greatly appreciated.

We hope to hear in the next few months if we will receive national historic recognition.

As I complete my term, the best to the museum and all of you.

Time to renew your museum membership!

Dear Members:

It is once again time to renew your Sun Cities Area Historical Society/ Del Webb Sun Cities Museum dues.

Memberships run through the calendar year, so a renewal now will be considered paid through December 31, 2015.

This past year has been a good year for the Museum. As the year comes to a close, we're preparing to open our newest exhibit celebrating the

performing arts in the Sun Cities. The exhibit will profile our local arts and entertainment organizations -- theater, dance, choral and more!

Please help us continue the progress we have made in the past few years by renewing your membership.

Please return a check and the membership form on Page 5 to our address. Please note the museum has recently changed its hours and days of the

week that we are open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1 to 4 pm.

Renew your membership, visit us often, consider the McMillin Terrace for small group meetings, we also have speakers for events and donate to the museum if you wish.

Your support is necessary and gratefully received.

Sincerely,

Ed Cirillo President



Unlock the _____ Mystery _____ of History

The past comes to life at the only museum in the nation devoted to the world's very first active adult retirement communities! Located in the first of five model homes built in Sun City, the museum offers a living tribute to the history of Sun City and Sun City West, and to the enduring spirit of those who pioneered an exciting new lifestyle!

Become a Member!

Show your support for the museum and its efforts to preserve our community's unique heritage!

- Copper Circle \$15
- Turquoise Circle \$25
- Silver Circle \$50
- Gold Circle \$100
- Clubs/Organizations \$25
- Businesses \$50

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

email: _____

Make checks payable to Sun Cities Area Historical Society, and mail to 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351. SCAHS is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization.

Special introductory offer

Join at the Gold Level (\$100) and receive a FREE copy of "Sun City: Images of America" photographic history book. (Limited offer; while supplies last.)



Exhibits, Historical Artifacts and More!



Tours, Volunteer Opportunities

Speakers Bureau

Meeting Facilities



Call or Stop By Today!

10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, Arizona
(623) 974-2568 *delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org
Museum Hours: 1-4 p.m. Mon., Wed., Friday

This advertisement made possible in part due to a generous gift from Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage



9949 W. Bell Road, Ste. 101, Sun City, AZ 85351

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Museum to sell Sun City landmark scene note cards

By P. Atwood Fenner

Thanks to an anonymous cash donation, five original design Sun City landmark scenes are now at the printers.

The set of five pencil drawings are to be printed as blank note cards with matching envelopes and will be available for sale. Former board member



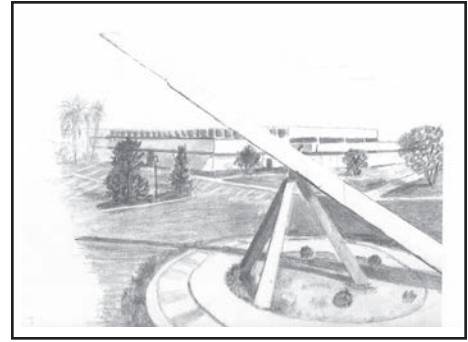
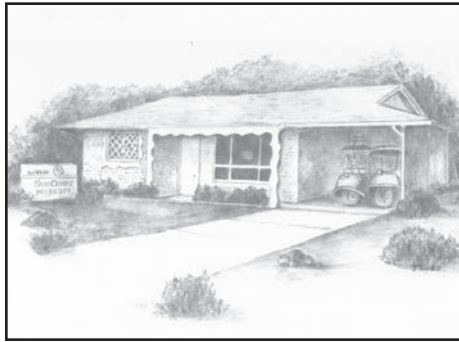
Jeanette Kimble

Arlene Macy had shown the Museum Board the set produced in Sun City West, and when artist Jeanette Kimble suddenly arrived at the museum a year ago to volunteer, the new fundraiser project was conceived – that of Sun City note cards for the Museum to sell.

Jeanette has spent the year sketching the scenes selected by the board: The Museum building, the Del E. Webb and Liberty Bell statues at Bell Center, the Sundial at Sundial Center, and the waterfall on Meeker Mountain behind Lakeview Center.

The artist began painting at age 10 in Danville, Ill. and also designed her own paper doll clothes. But she considers portraits her forte. At one point in her life she ran a restaurant, and in the evenings did more than 40 portraits of customers which hung in the restaurant to the delight of the diners in Hebron, Ind.

Jeanette also did pencil sketches of Merrivale, Ind. for the 1976 Book of Historical Buildings and



Four of the five drawings to be included in the museum's note card collection: Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, Sundial Recreation Center, Liberty Bell and the Del E. Webb Memorial Statue. Not pictured: The waterfall at Viewpoint Lake. (Drawings by Jeanette Kimble)

included what residents had to say about their community.

"I've always been fascinated by old things and love history," she says. In Arizona she has made detailed pencil drawings of more than 50 historical buildings, many in the West Valley. And as producer of a recent Sun City Players Community Theater play, she painted scenery and paintings used on the set.

Her undergraduate and graduate degrees in education are from Indiana University, and her PhD in philosophy and psychiatry was earned at Indiana State. She also studied at the Art Institute of Chicago.

After retiring in Indiana as an evaluator of art and music department curriculum at the state level,

she moved to Arizona in 1984.

Here she founded the Peoria Art League and was on the Peoria Arts Commission. They sent her to Peoria's sister city in Ireland where artists were her tour guides, and Jeanette was invited to have a showing of her work.

She has taught art privately in Glendale for the past 12 years and in Peoria for five years. Her current project is writing a curriculum for elementary art teachers.

She believes that art should be taught across the curriculum such as in geology and other science classes. She hopes teachers will develop visual perception in their students with methods she developed as a teacher, because her own art teachers had lacked a methodol-

Speakers Bureau shares local history

Your membership in the Sun Cities Area Historical Society is proof of your interest in the history of the local area. You know the stories of Del Webb, John Meeker, Jim Boswell, and others who defied conventional thinking to create the active adult communities we enjoy today.

You can share those stories with others – we’ll help you do it through the Museum’s Speakers Bureau. You may belong to a club, church, or other organization that uses outside speakers. If so, suggest to your program chairperson that they contact the Museum at 974-2568. We’d be happy to provide a speaker, and

best of all, this service is FREE.

The Speakers Bureau helps us publicize the museum, which results in new visitors and new members – expanding our support base.

Popular talks include:

■ “From Cotton Balls to Golf Balls” – how Sun City came to be.

■ “The Remarkable Del Webb” – how a high school dropout went on to build one of the nation’s largest construction firms

■ “John Meeker –Master Build-

er” – the story of the man who saved Sun City and went on to design Sun City West.

■ “The Boswell Connection” – the story of the man who became America’s largest farmer and Del Webb’s partner in developing Sun City.

■ “From Lizard Acres to Lush Oasis” – the story of how Sun City West emerged from a cattle feedlot.

Note Cards

ogy.

“I plan to send a copy of my book to the Indiana State Superintendent of Schools who wants his art teachers do learn how to teach art - which is more than just pretty pictures,” she said.

Card Project Coordinator Pris Fenner will organize volunteers to assemble the packages with two cards and envelopes of each scene, printed in brown ink on ivory stock. Each bears a short historical identification crediting Jeanette and the Museum.

The cards are printed by Moore Graphics in Youngtown.

“As far as I know there are not even any postcards of Sun City available in Sun City at this time,” said Pris. “So these will make great gifts for those who still prefer to send thank-you’s and invitations written by hand,” she added.

Sun City
we live here
we play here
we work here
we volunteer here
and
we help people buy
and sell their homes here



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



National company - local focus

Buying?

We have over 80 agents in our office who know Sun City, Sun City West, and surrounding areas, and can find you the home you’ve been looking for.

Selling?

We have the resources to help you get the best price for your home.

Call us today or come in and pick up a free map!



**Pat Burden, Associate Broker
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Above left, Sun Valley Lodge soon after it opened in 1965. Above right, the newest sign that welcomes visitors to the Sun City facility on 103rd Avenue.

A salute to Sun City's — First Retirement Home

Sun Valley Lodge prepares to mark its 50th birthday

They're beginning to plan for their 50th birthday next year.

Sun Valley Lodge, the first retirement home in Sun City, will be half a century old in September, 2015, and there will be a festive time for all.

And a lot has happened in these 49 years; modern furniture has been replaced with comfortable period chairs and tables in the renovated lobby; computers and other modern conveniences are available to residents. And in the past decade the exterior block walls have been covered with stucco and painted in restful desert colors. Many handsome stucco fences with ironwork and new landscaping were also added.

At first, at the site of the former Coulter Cotton Gin, south of Grand Avenue on 103rd Avenue, there were Inn-Living studio apartments. Two wings were converted to a Sheltered Care Center as needs of the residents changed after the first three years. In 1969 the Lodge was fully occupied and a waiting list was begun.

Two-bedroom Garden apartments were added on the east side in 1970 and filled a different need than the studio units available when the first 18 residents arrived in September of 1965. Transportation needs were addressed, and in 1974 sprin-

klers were added throughout due to changes in building and health care codes.

In 1975 the main dining room and lounge were expanded, and a chapel and crafts room were added. Phase Two also expanded the nurse's station, isolation room, bathing room for wheel chair residents and added storage for nurses. Staff and residents added funds to install an expensive Century Tub for wheel chair bathing. All this took three years to complete with contributions raised without the help of professional fundraisers.

Twelve more garden apartments were built in 1977, paid for by the residents moving into the apartments. A small dining room in the

By P. Atwood Fenner
Photos: Sun Valley Lodge



A bird's eye view of the Sun Valley Lodge campus in the 1970s. The facilities include Inn-Living studios, Garden Apartments and sheltered care resident facilities all on one floor. In the foreground is 103rd Avenue with a view of Grand Avenue and the beginnings of Phase Two in the background. (Sun Valley Lodge photo.)

sheltered care area came in 1978, and by the end of 1979 there were a new lounge and patio for the sheltered care residents.

In the mid-1980s the Gold Chest Gift Shop and Thrift Shop were expanded. By 1995 the Thrift Shop moved and expanded and Health Care Center renovation covered interior cement block with wall board, painting, wallpapering, new flooring, drapery, curtains and handrails in the hallway, chairs and a new whirlpool bath.

Later projects included the atrium and breezeways, which were enclosed in 1999, protecting residents from the elements. A satellite kitchen was added for the health care center.

Constant renovation, additions and improvements and better transportation continued, but the employees remained constant for many years. One recently completed a 44-year career and several have been with the not-for-profit Lodge for more than a decade.

“We have only offered full assisted living for the past eight



The main lobby as it appeared in 1965. (Sun Valley Lodge photo.)

years,” says Mike Kloberdanz, marketing and resource development director for the Lodge. “Care has evolved as the industry evolved,” he added. Sun Valley Lodge now offers respite skilled nursing care for as few as 14 days – or longer stints for those recovering from accidents and other events.

The facilities now include 73

studios and 1- bedroom units licensed for assisted living, 24 two-bedroom, furnished Garden apartments, and 58 skilled nursing beds all on the ground floor. This campus is maintained around the clock, and residents have call buttons and pendants. Residents can

Continued on Page 10

Sun City's first church gives life to first retirement center

By P. Atwood Fenner

In the beginning there was the dry earth called a desert. There were several rivers running through it. The first people here planted squash and beans and dug ditches to carry water from the rivers to their crops.

Then metal-clad men riding four-legged beasts arrived and established forts to protect themselves and the native families they encouraged to follow the ways of the metal-clad men's god.

White settlers in wagons with sails arrived and others following their paths – later roads – riding in boxes on iron rails pulled by “iron horses.”

In 1892 the community just east of the Agua Fria River was named Marinette by men who tried to sell lots in the fields, just north of the railroad and highway. Then they planted sugar beets – both these ventures failed horribly.



Sun Valley Lodge residents celebrate the facility's first vehicle in 1965. (Sun Valley Lodge photo)

Others learned to irrigate the land and that cotton would grow here. The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. purchased the land in 1920 and in 1942 sold to the J.G. Boswell family, who prospered selling cotton to Goodyear and long after the tires didn't use cotton for treads.

In the late 1920s a long-legged California carpenter, who loved to play baseball, moved to Phoenix for his health, and with the help of a local grocer began a construction company.

In 1954, a dairy rancher named

Greer turned his ranch into the first community for retired people and called it Youngtown.

Employees at a Phoenix construction company asked their baseball-crazy boss, Del E. Webb, with projects across the entire southern and central U. S., if he thought they should try building homes for retirees too. (Their company had just designed and built an entire community called San Manuel for a copper company in southeastern Arizona.)

Webb made them research the feasibility of building homes for people who would leave home and grandchildren behind and move to the arid desert for the sun with lots of activities to keep them off their rocking chairs in affordable cement block homes. DEVCO decided to give it a try, and Webb partnered with J.G. Boswell who furnished the land; five months after the January, 1960 opening of five model homes on Oakmont Avenue, the

Sun Valley Lodge (continued from Page 9)

be served by a choice of hospice services.

There is a non-denominational chapel, and other religious groups contribute often to the emotional needs of the residents. Many activities are supported by a Friends group. The Lodge is run by a governing board of directors.

But Mike feels the key to the real success of the Lodge is the longevity of the staff which provides “stellar care.”

He says this is due to the “meshing of personalities - the cama-



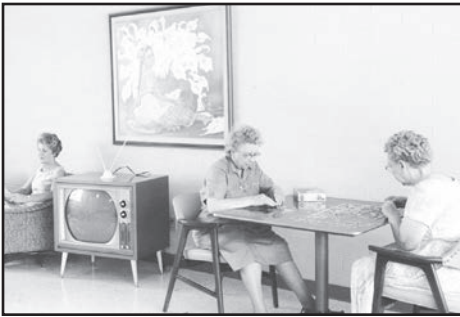
Studio apartment, circa 1965.

raderie of staff, residents, family members and volunteers.” The staff is very proud of the constant upgrading and maintenance that

they provide, he feels.

Sun Valley Lodge is mission-driven to provide “affordable, quality, living choices for seniors in a trusting environment... to maintaining the highest quality of care at a reasonable price.”

This was the dream of concerned members of the Community Church of Sun City – now the United Church of Sun City- who in 1962 formed a corporation which conceived and built the first retirement care facility in Del Webb's new active living community.



first houses were finished. Residents immediately began to live the active lifestyle, which some other builders had only promised.

Soon there were clubs for swimmers, golfers, lawn bowlers, sewing and metal working. Singers, actors, and musicians formed performing groups and churches were formed. A group of cheerleaders (The Sun City Poms), coached by a pair of dance teachers, performed for the area's first professional ball team of women, The Saints. A doc-



tor arrived and opened his office followed by others. A two-story professional building was built. And Sun City's first church, Sun City Community Church, now The United Church of Sun City, formed

a corporation in 1962 to build Sun Valley Lodge, a complex of apartments and one and two-room apartments, all on the ground floor, for assisted living. The first resident moved in Sept. 1, 1965.

tor arrived and opened his office followed by others. A two-story professional building was built. And Sun City's first church, Sun City Community Church, now The United Church of Sun City, formed



We have been serving both visitors & residents since 1986.

Collection point for:

- Socks, Cell Phones and Manufacturers Coupons for Troops
- Pop Tops for Ronald McDonald House
- Eye Glasses for the Lions
- Non-perishable food for Valley View Community Food Bank

- Host of 4 Blood Drives each year *March, June, September, & December*
- Volunteer Headquarters for 40+ organizations



Staffed by friendly volunteers who live and play in Sun City. Christine on the left and Mary on the right are here and ready to assist you.

Stop in and see us today!

Sun City Visitors Center

16824 N. 99th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85351 • 623-977-5000 • scvc@suncityaz.org



www.suncityaz.org

Welcome To Our New Members!

Our thanks to everyone who supports the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. The following is a list of those members who joined between Feb. 28, 2014 and Sept. 26, 2014.

If your name was inadvertently omitted, please let us know.

Gold Circle

Mary Benson
Richard Wright

Silver Circle

Charles Johnson

Turquoise Circle

Donna Eklund
Dave Filak
Bob & Sylvia Gitzlaff
Edwin Williamson
Chris Yoder
Lee Yogel

Copper Circle

Essie Mae Allbritton
Warren Darling
Mildred F. DeJong
Craig Garretson
Melissa Garson
David Gershaw
Suzy Hallock-Bannigan
Diane Worth
Linda Yerke

Special

Spring Membership

Drive

Harriett Ash
Virginia Barnard
Edith Birkeland
Helen Condo

Tom Cook Jr.
Clifford Devlieg
Charlotte Donaghy
June Duvall
Marshall Esty
Robert Fisher Sr.
David Gershaw
Sharon Hopewell
Ruth Howell
Sandra Jordan
Alice Keller
Donna Kirk

John Leyse
Ava Monson
Lex Parlova
Thomas Pierce
Doug Proudlock
Thomas Richards
Carl Rispoli
Neva Shumaker
Barbara Tobias
Lawrence Wellen
Janet Wies



Questers visit museum

Members of the Yucca Chapter of the Questers recently visited the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. Volunteer Coordinator Carolyn Dearen and volunteer A.J. Kovac (back row, left), led the group through the museum. The Questers have been very supportive of the museum and recently provided grants to help fund cabinets and renovations.



Welcome to Sunshine Service

People, meeting needs of people is what Sunshine Service is all about. Sunshine Service lends medical and children's equipment to residents of Sun City and we have been doing so for over **52** years. We are a non-profit Arizona corporation and are funded by voluntary contributions and memorial gifts.

While the equipment is available for the use of all residents or visitors staying with residents, the equipment must not be taken out of Sun City on a permanent basis. As a matter of control, equipment is loaned only to Sun City residents.

Records show that as the population of Sun City grew. So did use of our medical equipment. Savings for Sun City residents have been calculated periodically; in **2014**, it was estimated that residents saved over two million dollars in cost of equipment for that year alone.

Sunshine Service, Inc has received local, state and national recognition. Awards received include the George Washington Honor Medal for services to the sick and handicapped from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge in Pennsylvania

Some Of The Many Items We Carry:

Arm Exerciser • Bath Bench • Bed Rails • Bedside Commodes • Companion Chair • Crutches
Foot Massager • High Chairs • Hospital Beds • Lift Chairs • Overbed Tables • Pack-N-Play
Ramp - Aluminum • Rollaway Beds • Strollers • Trapeze • Walkers • Weights • Wheel Chairs



Monday-Friday • 9am-4pm
9980 Santa Fe Dr.,
Sun City 85351-3197
623-974-2561

Meet the museum's newest volunteers

By Barb Brozman

Gail Warmath, volunteer coordinator at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, likes volunteers who are “friendly, outgoing people who love visiting with other people and chatting with them.” She found three such people in her new volunteers, **Elsa See, Ron Smith and AJ Kovac**.

When asked why she moved to Arizona, Elsa See thought it over for a few seconds, got a great big smile on her face and replied, “Sunshine.”

Her life before Arizona was spent in the Detroit, Mich. area, where she was the single mother of five children. Once they were all grown and on their own, the “empty nest syndrome” set in and gray, overcast, snowy Michigan skies got to Elsa. She decided she needed a change - a change that would include sunshine and adventure.

She came to Arizona, spent six years working for a temp agency, then worked at Safeway stores in and around the Phoenix area, doing data entry in the Accounts Payable Department.

The “adventures” continued when she started volunteering. As the mother of five, Elsa was used to being a caregiver, so it was only natural that she would be a volunteer at Mary's Place and Royal Oaks. She's also volunteered at the Visitors Center, where she says the information she learned comes in handy at the museum. With her computer expertise she fit right into the Computer Club of Sun City.

Museum volunteer Elsa See, center, assists visitors to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.



She's currently a monitor, signing people in and giving tours.

About six months ago, she saw an article in the newspaper that the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum needed volunteers. She said to herself, “I can do that.” Now, as a guide at the museum, she finds the visitors “very interesting” and looks forward to telling them about Del Webb and Sun City.

“I feel like I'm helping to sell Sun City and I'm always telling people to come back to the museum for a return visit,” Elsa added.



Like father, like son.

Ron Smith's father moved to Sun City with Ron's mother in 1978. The couple loved their new home and Ron's father joined the Sun City Posse.

In 1995 **Ron Smith** moved to Sun City with his wife, Barbara. A few years later, just like his father before him, Ron, too, joined the Sun City Posse. He spent the next 15 years volunteering with the Posse, including one year as its

commander. His experience was rewarding and he met lots of really nice people, along with a few not-so-nice people.

Since becoming a guide at the Del Webb Museum, Ron admits that he has become “a real history nut.” He's been reading through “JUBILEE, the 25th anniversary of Sun City” as well as “RESHAPING RETIREMENT in AMERICA Sun City, Arizona 1960-2010,” a book about the 50th anniversary of Sun City. Ron also enjoyed the cassette, “From Cotton Bolls to Golf Balls.” Ron learned a lot of Sun City history from his dad.

The 23-year Navy veteran has a warm, fuzzy side to him, too. He volunteers at the West Valley Humane Society, where he says he “just loves cuddling my puppies and taking them on their walks.”

As a second generation Sun Citian, Ron is running for a seat on the RCSC Board of Directors with the goal of “keeping Sun City the best senior community in the WORLD.”



A.J. Kovac has lived in the West Valley since 1967. He was an RV buyer whose work brought him to the RV Compound in Sun City. A.J. loved Sun City because “it was the only place people called me ‘sonny’.”

After 10 years in RV sales, A.J. transitioned into realty work. He started selling homes for Ken Meade Realty, whose office had “lots of Sun City materials,” according to A.J.

He became steeped in the culture and history of Sun City and found he had a real passion for the community.

So much passion that he has produced a display board of Sun City that he uses at his open houses,



New volunteers Elsa See, right, and Ron Smith greet recent visitors to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

(now for Coldwell Banker), and brochures that he gives out to prospective buyers of Sun City homes.

At one of his open houses he met a volunteer from the Del Webb Sun

Cities Museum, expressed his interest in Sun City and the museum, and before he knew it, he found himself as a volunteer guide at the museum.

Now he acts as a guide at the museum every other Monday. On a recent Monday - only his third time as a guide - A.J. hosted the Yucca Chapter of the Questers with the help of four-year-veteran museum guide Carolyn Dearen and Volunteer Coordinator Gail Warmath. He also led a couple on a tour through the museum and was thrilled when they left a donation - “my first donation!” A.J. beamed as he and **Carolyn Dearen** high-fived each other.

‘Bandana Brunch’ salutes museum volunteers

Colorful red, blue and pink bandanas, looking like “hoboes onboard,” greeted the 20 guests as they were seated at the annual spring volunteer appreciation event, the Bandana Brunch on the McMillin Terrace.

The bandanas housed the picnic lunch of beef sandwiches, chips, and slaw to which were added deviled eggs and pickles, iced tea and Dilly Bars.

Pris Fenner and Carolyn Dearen dressed western for their performances in a short skit of cowboy philosophy set in Sun City and titled “Campfire Gems.”

Historical Society President Ed Cirillo spoke briefly, and Volunteer Coordinator Gail Warmath drew Betsy Harris’ name as winner of the docent prize, a restaurant gift certificate.



Among the guests at the April 14 Volunteer Bandana Brunch are, from left, board member Tim Erickson, office volunteer Lois Brown, docents Joyce Kirkham, Ken Klein and Kathy Schymansky. (Del Webb Sun Cities Museum photo)

Sun Cities Area Historical Society/
Del Webb Sun Cities Museum
10801 W. Oakmont Drive
Sun City, AZ 85351

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and promote the history of the Sun Cities!



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for membership
information

